

FISCAL NOTE

SB 399 - HB 1632

March 18, 1997

SUMMARY OF BILL: Includes in the Basic Education Program (BEP) an amount of money sufficient to fund, for each local education agency, one full-time school social worker position for each 2,000 students or one full-time school social worker position for each local education agency, **whichever is greater**. In addition, the State Board of Education may provide through the BEP, funding for additional full-time school social worker positions for those local education agencies which possess substantial concentration of impoverished, special education or minority students not to exceed NASA standards for school social work services. Requires that LEAs must use such generated funds for school social workers **or** must notify the Department of Education of its election not to do so and the alternative arrangement used to meet the needs of its students. Under current law, the BEP formula sets the suggested ratio for social workers at one per 2,000 ADM; however, school systems have the flexibility to hire staff and allocate funds according to their specific needs.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$326,500

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures* - \$109,000

Proposed:

BEP cost which includes funding for at least 1 school social worker per LEA	\$2,081,607,188
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Current:

BEP cost which includes funding for 1 school social worker per 2,000 ADM	<u>2,081,280,659</u>
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Increase in BEP funding to provide at least 1 school social worker per LEA	<u>\$326,529</u>
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Assumes a 25% local match of \$108,843. Assumes the addition of approximately 13 social worker positions. Currently, \$11,575,679 is allocated to the school social worker component of the BEP.

*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director